



Students attend Passion Conference.
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Dordt College Pep Band is resurrected!
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Dordt College

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Fundraising Campaign Vision 2020 Surpasses Goal

Bryan C. Visser
Staff Writer

Despite the setback of the economic downturn of 2008, Dordt's Vision 2020 campaign not only met its \$50 million goal for improving facilities, scholarships, and other college expenditures, but surpassed it by more than \$7 million.

Dordt's Vice President for College Advancement John Baas explained that the economic downturn set the campaign back by as much as a year and a half but did not stop it.

"We were actually quite pleased that the downtown did not have as severe an impact on our fundraising at Dordt College as many of our peer institutions and other organizations experienced," Baas said.

Baas also explained that a fair amount of the funds raised have already been spent for construction, scholarships, and other uses the campaign promoted.

"Some of the money has been spent. Some of the money hasn't been received. Some of the money is going toward creating more opportunities for students because of the additional money we already received," Baas said.

Some facility improvements have already been completed including the renovations to the Ribbens Academic Complex.

The Ribbens Academic Complex renovations added space and allowed more centralized locations for the art and education departments.

"We have more physical space in every classroom to accommodate more students, and because we could have larger classes, we don't have to limit our art classes to art majors only. That means we don't just serve art students and digital media students but students at large," professor Jake Van Wyk said.

Education professor Barb Hoekstra explained the changes to the facilities helped improve communica-



Photo by Aanna Stadem

tion among the education department.

"I think it's improved collaboration in that our offices are all close together. It's easy to assist each other. If a student comes in to the department and the person they came to see isn't here, usually somebody else will step up to volunteer," Hoekstra said.

"It's a way different build-

ing. The classrooms are superb," professor of communication Charles Veenstra said.

The additional green space was another renovation paid for by the campaign's construction funds.

"I really like the green space. I know some students have complained about losing parking. I just don't listen to that because they can

still park reasonably close. Green space is psychologically better for us," Veenstra said.

"When you have a beautiful campus people are excited to come here, students are excited to be learning here, and faculty and staff are happier to work here," Hoekstra said.

Winter is back and it's staying!

The snow has finally arrived after months of unusually warm winter weather



Photo by Kelly Zatlin

Joel Venhuizen
Staff Writer

After months of unseasonably warm temperatures and little to no snowfall,

the first winter storm of the semester hit the Midwest last Friday. More than four inches of snow fell on Northwest Iowa, leaving

the first real white layer of 2012.

Record high temperatures were recorded in December, with some days

reaching 50 degrees and higher.

"Yeah, we deserved this," junior Michael Gallagher said of the recent snowy conditions. I think we deserve a big two-foot snowstorm in March this year, too."

Meanwhile, freshmen from warmer states got their first taste of a harsh Iowa winter. "Plenty of snow last night!" declared freshman Joseph Jasper of California on his Facebook wall last Friday.

But for others the snow is a welcome guest. "I was really looking forward to it," said Sioux Center native Kody Roos. "It just wouldn't feel like home without it."

According to The Old

Farmer's Almanac, the snowiest period for the Heartland region is still to come. They project late February and early March to be the snowiest part of the year while mid February should be the coldest. Then again, the Almanac also projected mid December to have had equal amounts of snow and cold as February.

If there's anything we can learn about Iowa winters, it's that they are unpredictable. And as the saying goes, "If you don't like the weather here, just wait five minutes."

Hymn writers to perform for Dordt’s annual Day of Encouragement



Hymn writers Keith and Kristyn Getty

Kristina Heflin
Staff Writer

Dordt College’s eighth annual Day of Encouragement on Saturday, February 4, will feature a variety of guest speakers as well as the headlining, hymn writing couple, Keith and Kristyn Getty.

“We try to create a more timeless musical style that every generation can sing, a style that relates to the past and the future,” said Keith Getty describing his purpose penning such classic songs as “In Christ Alone” and “Power of the Cross.”

Along with his wife, Kristyn, Getty is at the vanguard of a modern form of musical style that brings hymn-like worship songs in the church.

“In the church, the purpose of singing is to express the community we have as the

body of Christ,” said Kristyn.

Keith added, “What we sing affects how we think, how we feel, and ultimately how we live, so it’s so important that we sing the whole scope of truth the Bible has given us.”

The couple will conclude Dordt’s Day of Encouragement with a concert.

The day begins, however, at 8:30 a.m. with opening devotions and worship, followed by a day full of sessions led by respected church leaders and covering topics from pastoral ministry to worship services and youth ministry.

According to Wes Fopma, Dordt’s director of church relations, there are activities “for pastors, elders, deacons, and everybody at local churches. For example, the series on supporting the seriously ill addresses a topic that can be for deacons, but is difficult for anyone.”

The keynote speaker, Tim Vink, will address “The Power of God’s Gospel Now.”

“Every church and leader needs to be continually gripped and renewed by the good news of the kingdom of God at hand,” Vink said.

Other topics and speakers include “Stewardship Trends” by Rick Droog, “Ministry Among Muslims” by Bill Thornburg, “Music in Worship” by Keith Getty, and “Sexual Purity and Your Family Destiny” by Fred Stoeker.

There are generally between 300 and 350 attendees, according to Fopma.

“It’s a neat thing we can offer the local churches. It’s mostly an offering of service, but it’s also a great way to get people on the campus. People really appreciate that we do this,” Fopma said.

Although the day is primarily geared towards church leaders, with some coming from as far away as central Iowa, Minnesota, and South Dakota, Dordt students are also encouraged to attend.

Students can register for the Day of Encouragement at dordt.edu, by clicking on the Events tab, then choosing Day of Encouragement and Registration.

The concert begins 7 p.m. in the B.J. Haan Auditorium. Tickets are free for students and can be obtained in the Advancement Office.

Symposium Update

Hello fellow Dordt College students and welcome back to another semester. I sit writing this article and wonder what your thoughts were as you returned to campus for this new semester. Did you realize anything about the community here that has eluded you before now? Maybe you became convicted that Dordt should reach out more on a global scale. Maybe you realized that there are a lot of wonderful people at Dordt you haven’t met and you want more opportunities to get to know them. Or maybe you think that Dordt should create a chapel on campus so that we can better accommodate the Dordt marriage trends. Whatever your opinions, be sure to bring them to Student Symposium. We love hearing your thoughts about life at Dordt and want to help you communicate with all those who make this campus an enriching educational community. Have a great semester, and God bless.



*Photo of Symposium
by Zac Edens*

Dordt students attend Passion Conference in Georgia



Kelly Zatlin
Editor

Eight Dordt students came back from Christmas break with Romans 1:16 running through their minds after attending the Passion Conference in Atlanta, Georgia.

The conference which began on January 2, featured Christian speakers and musicians, including Chris Tomlin and Hillsong,

from all over the world in order to raise awareness about human trafficking.

As stated on its website, “Passion has had the privilege of encountering millions of students and 18-25 year olds, a sea of young people whose lives have been transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit. Their voice is getting louder as they rise, united as a generation, bringing hope

and light to the world.”

Over the course of three days, the 45,000 college students attending the conference raised over three million dollars, triple the intended goal.

Though Passion’s goal for the week was to stop human trafficking, the conference itself dedicated much of its time to praising God in song and in prayer.

Every Dordt student that

came away from Passion had a testimony to share about the spiritual growth they encountered as well as the new understanding they have of Jesus and his abounding grace.

An overarching theme that most of them expressed was that of not being ashamed in Christ.

“The biggest things I got out of it personally was being unashamed in our faith,” said Brittany Arke-ma. “It was really amazing for me to see that many college students so lit up for Christ and doing so much for the world around them, but also coming together and helping each other.”

Student Sung Jae Ko, who almost missed the conference because all the tickets were sold out, came away from Passion feeling as though he could more freely express his faith and love for God.

Upon coming back to Dordt, a phrase that keeps running through his mind is, “what can I do with my faith today?”

Student Micah Applegate

who also attended Passion says he “met his wife for sure” at the conference, but more importantly, he said “I really grew in my faith, as in my belief in what God does and what he can do.”

The future goal that the students have since they have left Passion and are back in their routine is to continue on in this faith and not let their “passion” for Christ fade. They hope they will be able to shine Christ’s light here at Dordt so that everyone may know him.

“We’ve got to tell our friends about Jesus and we’ve got to bring them to Jesus, not forcefully, but praying for the campus and being very active and unashamed in Christ,” said Gail Dirksen.

Getting involved and enjoying it

Twenty-three student-run clubs you never knew about

Danielle Richards
Staff Writer

With all the hustle and bustle of daily college life, few students realize the number of clubs Dordt has to offer.

In addition to the committees and service projects, Dordt supports 23 student-led clubs. Many students are unaware of how to join a club, but the truth is, it's quite easy.

To join a club, or to learn more information about any certain club, Student Symposium suggests students talk to these leaders or participants in the club:

Club/Contact

Agriculture/ Jacob Fox
ASCE (American Society of Civil Engineers) Student Chapter/ Nathan Couperus
ASME (American Society of Mechanical Engineers) / Marty Haverly

Comedy League/ Jonathon Postuma
Concrete Canoe Club/ Benjamin Hofland
FACT Club (Future Active Christian Teachers)
Faith and Film/ Jason Stuenkel
Business Club/ Kelsey Terveen and Hannah Hart
Future Physicians/ Austin Spronk
IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers)
Justice Matters/ Jeni Kanis
Latin Dance Club/ Jonny Grotenhuis
Mu Kappa Club (Missionary Kid Club)/ Benjamin Hofland
Nursing Club
Prayer Team/ Wendy Gomez
Pre-Physical Therapy
Presbyterian Student Fellowship/ Miguel Lantan
Pre-Vet/ Tyler Te Grotenhuis
Psychology/ Laura Schrottenboer
Sioux Falls Prison Ministry/ Emily McFarland

Students With Borders/ Yaby Doornink
Swing Dance Club/ Anna Vanden Akker
WISE Club (Women in Science and Engineering) / Val Zonnefeld

These clubs are mostly open for all students to join. Many of the clubs are eager to invite new members, and many offer students a variety of networking opportunities for future careers.

Many students are unaware of what clubs do during meetings and events. In order to inform students about the opportunities involved in each club, several club leaders have offered information about their clubs.

One of these clubs is the Concrete Canoe Club. "Our first semester of design work has come to a close, and we now are starting out on a semester of building, construc-

tion, and get-your-hands-dirty-fun," President Benjamin Hofland said. "We can always use more help." The Concrete Canoe Club meets at 7 P.M. on Mondays in SB229.

Another club of interest at this time of year is the Justice Matters Club. "We try to host people and events that raise student awareness of local and international justice issues. When doing this, we also try to offer practical ways for students to become involved in promoting justice also," said member Jeni Kanis. The Justice Matters Club meets Tuesday evenings in the upstairs library study room.

Several clubs deal with ministry outreach. One of these clubs is the Prison Ministries Club. "Being a part of the Prison Ministries Club is a great experience that helps to break down barriers and stigmas that have been put up around jail and the individuals

found within its walls," said president Emily McFarland. This club visits the Sioux Falls Men's Penitentiary around 4 times a semester, greeting and encouraging the prisoners there.

Another popular club is the Latin Dance club, led by Jonny Grotenhuis. Information on joining this club can be found on the club's Facebook page, "DC Latin Dance Club." "The goal of this club is to get students from both Dordt and nearby colleges involved with Latin Dancing in both a social setting and at a performance level," said Jonny Grotenhuis.

Don't see a club you want to join? Students are encouraged to begin their own clubs by contacting Student Symposium, or Lisa Smith, the Club Representative in Student Symposium. Dordt provides funding for approved student-led clubs.

For the love of AMOR



AMOR group in Jamaica

Photo by Allison Vellema

Kristin Janssen
Staff Writer

While some students spend their Christmas breaks at home, visiting family, and working to pay for the second semester, others spend a week serving, learning, and loving in Central American countries. This past Christmas break, 15 Dordt students volunteered in Nicaragua and Jamaica through the AMOR program.

Kurt Franje and Kristin Scholten are the two Dordt students who spent 10 days in Nicaragua learning, observing, and working alongside Nicaraguan farmers and their families through the Farmer-to-Farmer program.

While in Nicaragua, the duo served alongside American Farmer-to-Farmer representatives. The program loans Nicaraguan farmland to Nicaraguan farmers. The Nicaraguans farm the land in order

to provide food for their families and eventually pay off the price for the loaned land by selling the livestock and produce to other Nicaraguans. Most farmers are able to pay off the land within 5-7 years.

Franje and Scholten toured several of these farms. During their time in Nicaragua, they learned the entire process of producing coffee and were also able to participate in leading Bible school, playing soccer games, and engaging in community meals.

Franje shared that AMOR was his first experience in a developing country. "It was good to see the Kingdom of God in other nations through worshipping, working, and community life," said Franje.

While Franje and Scholten learned more about farming in Nicaragua, 13 other Dordt students celebrated the New Year with Jamaican children in the

communities of Kingston and Bamboo, Jamaica. This same group also visited a children's orphanage, special needs' orphanage, infirmary, and children's hospital. The students helped serve meals and play with the children.

Kelli Durant, one of the AMOR Jamaica participants, especially enjoyed playing with the kids. Through the trip, she learned that she has a lot to be thankful for due to God's blessings. Kelli believes that the trip to Jamaica fit the mission to AMOR because the group of students was able to "show God's love through giving food and playing or even just holding kids who don't get that love."

A final AMOR trip was planned for Costa Rica, but the trip fell through at the last minute. Instead, the same group will be heading to Liberia with Aaron Baart over Spring Break.

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Features

Volunteering at Dordt *Who’s doing it and how you too can get involved!*

Hannah De Vries
Staff Writer

Just as college is an opportunity to reshape your life, it’s also an opportunity to reshape your outlook on volunteering. It’s more than just something you have to do to fulfill a service project requirement, and there are more opportunities out there than you may think. Have a certain skill or passion you want to put into action? Volunteering is hardly limited to a few select “genres.” In fact, according to the Community Outreach Programs Club, there is a range of opportunities

available to everyone. Love working with kids? Schools like Head Start Pre-School and Kinsey Elementary School offer students the chance to get to know kids and help them get ready for elementary school or, for those already in elementary or middle school, with homework and tutoring. Or, if you just want to remember what it was like to be in kindergarten yourself, the Kidzone and Big Brothers Big Sisters organizations let you join activities like gym time, or let you spend an hour after school reading to someone who just might

be your new best friend. Maybe you want something that requires a little more muscle. You could help Habitat For Humanity restore old or neglected houses so they can turn around and use them as new living spaces for low income families. Or you could help unload and sort donated items to another organization, Justice For All, which provides support for charity thrift stores and low-income families. These are just a few of the many organizations and opportunities to which you could give a few hours of your week. There are

opportunities to spend time with the elderly at Franken Manor, to work in a soup kitchen with Mid-Sioux Opportunity, Inc, or to join the inmates of South Dakota State Penitentiary for an evening worship service through Cornerstone Prison Church. Steven Pederson, director of the Community Outreach Program/COPs Club, says that there are many needs in the community that are not taken care of for lack of love, but for lack of awareness. “We just try to get people out to see the world outside of their own world.” If you feel like you

missed your opportunity to sign up with these organizations the first time they came to Dordt, don’t worry. All Campus Service Days are being planned for March 3 and April 21. These will be Saturday mornings in which teams of students will be sent out with several local organizations to work and serve in the community. Here’s a few testimonials from students who have already volunteered:

Allison Kraayenbrink, Senior
Volunteers at Sioux Center Christian School

“This semester, I am tutoring at Sioux Center Christian School Monday and Thursday afternoons...and am really enjoying it! Most students just need help focusing and staying on task while they complete their work. One of the things that is most challenging is trying to explain division. We all know how to do it, but most of us don’t know why it works! I love it because I get to practice my “teacher skills” and help kids at the same time! I would recommend to anyone to consider tutoring for volunteer work. Even if you’re not an education major, it is still a great opportunity to work with kids--maybe even stretch you a little bit outside your comfort zone!”



Liz Boender, Freshman
Volunteers at Orange City Christian School

“The second time [I volunteered], I stretched myself and decided to help with tutoring at Orange City Christian School. It is proving to be a good experience going once a week to help with homework for an hour. It is interesting working with students that are at an age I once was at, and feeling the same things I felt. The experience I’ve had with the people who organize these opportunities are fantastic; they are great at letting you know what needs to happen and where you need to be. I love that Dordt has such a giving spirit and helps students help others.”



Karisa Vander Groef, Junior
Volunteers at The Bridge, Orange City

“My role [at The Bridge] is mentoring a young girl. Every other week, we spend a few hours together so that she gets some one-on-one time with an older role model. We love to go swimming, color, or just explore playgrounds in the area. The opportunity to spend time with someone younger than college age is wonderful! At times it can be a challenge, but it is also so rewarding.”



Be who you are meant to be

Hank Houtman
Columnist

With the start of a new year and a new semester, we have been given a rare opportunity at redefining who we are as Christians. Now, you may be thinking “what do you mean redefine?” Well, let me ask you a question: Are you joyfully humble?—not happy or some other meaningless selfish feeling, but are you joyfully humble? It’s a question that we as Christians seem to fail to address within our own lives. Often we become so comfortable and lost in our own safe haven, that we dare not venture out.

Recently I was talking with a dear friend of mine who asked me a question on theology, specifically, what my opinion on the subject was. Now, if this question was asked of me three years ago, I would have been all over it, very aggressive with my answer.

However, I have come to recognize that while theology may be of value, not all of it is of strict importance to the main principles of the Christian faith.

For instance, why is it that our churches will argue what type of piano should be used in the church services, as opposed to finding new ways to spread the gospel to lost souls of our community? The key to the Christian faith is willingness to share the gospel with the world. The last command Christ gave to us while on this earth was to “Go out and make disciples.”

Maybe my generation has lost the courage to do so. For example, many people feel uncomfortable when asked how their faith is. Some avoid the question altogether or quickly answer they are a Christian to avoid further discussion.

Why? As children of Christ are we not supposed to stand up in courage and share the gospel with the world? How can we even begin to spread the gospel if we cannot share our faith with fellow Christians?

Our generation has been raised to keep to ourselves and not discuss politics or religion out of fear of confrontation among our families and friends. I can understand that we do not want family to fight about religion, but then, why are we fighting in the first place? We may have different perspectives on theology and discussing those differences is important.

It boggles my mind how we all believe we are saved by grace alone through faith in Christ alone, and yet we will scream at one another over minor aspects of worship.

Shame on us. We’re cowards and a joke. We shouldn’t sit there and justify our pitiful anger or arguments. As Christians we should be building each other up and focusing on spreading the gospel, not fighting over something as trivial as a style of worship or the type of organ that should be chosen.

Count your blessings, people, and fall humbly to your knees. Be happy you are surrounded by Christians, and remember that it all can be taken from you in a blink of an eye.

One Last Christmas Story...



Danae Geels
Columnist

I want to tell you a story of how my family Christmas went this year: After a nice dinner together, we all gathered in the living room to open gifts. Each of us would open one gift at a time and continue to rotate through youngest to oldest. After each gift was opened, the appropriate words of gratitude were given, “This is exactly what I needed!” or “I’m so excited to go try this out!” Every receiver of gifts made sure the giver heard how thankful he or she was.

After all the gifts were opened, it was time for my favorite part of the night. We got to hide our new gifts! Some of us have become pretty good at finding creative spots no one would ever be able to find. It’s so fun. After that, we all gathered for one last glass of eggnog and made sure that each of our gift givers had heard how thankful we were for the gifts we received. We went to bed dreaming of creative places where we might hide our gifts next Christmas.

Does this story seem absurd? Well, good because it’s definitely not true—at least not about our Christmas gifts. In case my satirical writing isn’t as well-

written as intended, I’ll try to be a little clearer. How often do we say thank you to God for all the gifts He has given us?—for friends and family, for our education, for our financial blessings, for our ease of access to church or other means of spiritual growth, for our abundance of clothing and food ...the list goes on and on. After returning from developing countries, I was frequently asked the question; “So I bet you’ve thanked God for the blessings you have back here, huh?” What am I supposed to say? Yes, I have, but is that all that I need?—a renewed desire to say thank you?

What about showing my thankfulness? I hope you

can tell from my story, it is quite the contradiction when we say “thank you” but don’t actually use our God-given blessings.

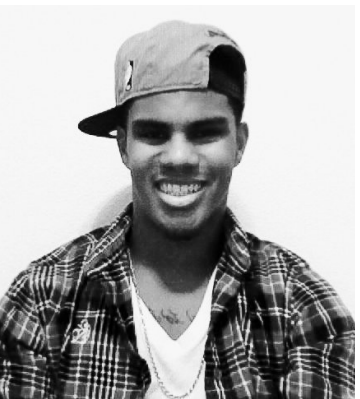
Actions really do speak louder than words. If I tell my mom how excited I am to get a new sweater but it stays in my closet all winter long, will she believe me? If I tell God how thankful I am for my financial security, but I keep all the money to myself, failing to trust that God will provide, will He believe me?

God has given each of us specific gifts for a specific reason. I was not randomly born into a relatively wealthy family. I did not just happen to grow up in America rather than Haiti. God, by His grace, has chosen to give me these specific blessings for a reason.

I don’t know about you, but I intend to actually show God how thankful I am by putting these gifts into use. Easier said than done? Probably—but that’s where total surrender to the work of the Holy Spirit comes in. With God, ALL things are possible.

Consider it a belated New Year’s Resolution.

The Hendy Show



Alex Henderson
Columnist

It’s no secret I am nearing a profession of procrastination.

This weekend I frittered with my time, did some near-future planning and then I wondered with over thinking.

I eventually gave myself a headache.

I never reached an absolute answer. I wanted to know what makes me tick?

Do you ever wonder why you actually do the things that you do?

Are you motivated for the right reasons?

Perhaps, our real motivations are provocative to others and the reasons are too subjective to ponder unless you are willing to catch a headache or two along the way.

As a self-proclaimed achiever, it is a challenge to say that achievement alone drives me to do the things that I do or pursue.

Especially, since I haven’t accomplished anything significant in the early moments of 2012.

In the end, the headache riddled itself and a more conscious thinker has surfaced. I didn’t get a chance to make New Year’s resolutions this year; to be honest I never keep them.

But, subtle changes are in effect, and my priorities are shifting.

I am not exactly a life coach, but I do know that people are motivated differently.

The challenge is to discover personally what exactly is it that makes you tick.

So what is it that makes you tick?

Welcome back to campus, I hope you all enjoyed your winter break!

Whether you want to or not, it’s time to get back into the swing of things.

Stay motivated.

Senioritis



Adrian Hielema
Columnist

I like to think that, when we’re around certain people, we tend to fall into a specific role, to act in the way they expect us to. Like an actor arriving on set to shoot a sequel, we portray someone who, while not being our actual self, is still a comfortable and familiar role to slip into. I’m sure there’s a psychological term for that, but I wouldn’t know it; I spent most of my Social Psychology class doodling pictures of Sigmund Freud and Carl Jung having lightsaber fights.

I bring this up because of something I noticed over Christmas break. Despite us both being “adults” now, my older brother still treats me the same way he did 10 years ago. Instead of a “good to see you again,” I get a firm punch on the shoulder, and instead of a “how are you doing,” I get “those jeans are almost as ugly as your face.” The thing is, though, I don’t mind. My brother has acted that way towards me for so long that if he were to suddenly say, “Those jeans really bring out your thighs,” I would not know how to react. And not just because

that sounds really weird.

The role of little brother, starring me, may not be the ideal role to play, but it is one I’m familiar with. For all the bad that can be said about the status quo, it’s awfully comfortable.

Part of growing up, however, means that sometimes the role you’ve been playing for years has been given to someone else, and you find yourself awkwardly placed in a role that doesn’t really suit you. Something like Kevin Costner in Robin Hood.

For example, my role during extended family gatherings had, for the past decade or so, usually amounted to “that

hyper kid who beats everyone at card games.” This Christmas, however, I was suddenly handed the script for the role of Responsible Adult #9 and expected to play it to perfection.

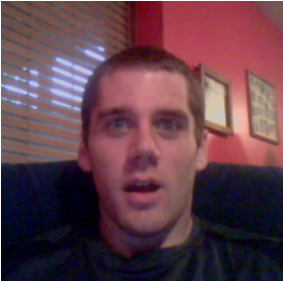
Needless to say, I delivered an Academy Award-worthy performance. I volunteered to do dishes, I let my younger cousins use my vertebrae as a trampoline, and I even vetoed their brilliant idea to have a snowball fight inside the living room.

Sure, it took long enough, but I guess I’m growing up. Maybe that means being at peace with a brother who tells you that your hair looks especially girly today. Maybe it means, sometimes, being the kind of person the 10 year-old version of you would call “no fun at all.” And maybe it means kindly suggesting to your younger cousins that the snowball fight can take place outside, and then laughing uproariously when you peg ‘em in the head from 30 feet out whilst on the run. Oh, and getting a Kleenex for their tears afterwards, of course.

Sports

Harmy's Army

(of thoughts)
Jordan Harmelink
Staff Writer



Since the entire world seems to be this man, I thought this would be the perfect opportunity for me to voice my opinion on Tim Tebow.

You all know the story of Tebow. One of the most prominent and successful college athletes in history, Tebow was the first sophomore to win the prestigious Heisman trophy award and he helped lead the Florida Gators to two national championships. Tebow is also a Christian who never shies away from sharing his faith with anyone.

After Tebow's senior year, there were a lot of questions about whether he could be an efficient quarterback at the next level. Many professional scouts saw him as a running back or maybe even a tight end, but Tebow made it clear that he wanted to play quarterback. He tweaked his throwing motion to be more suitable for the NFL, the Broncos shocked the world and took Tebow with the 25th overall pick. After a shaky rookie year, Tebow was named the starting quarterback over Kyle Orton after the Broncos started 1-4. Tebow was the third quarterback listed on the depth chart behind Norte Dame graduate Brady Quinn, but Tebow got the job -- because he's Tim Tebow.

"Tebow-mania" began as the Broncos went on a stretch that saw them win seven of eight games with Tebow as quarterback. After defeating the Steelers in the Wild-Card round that led to Facebook and Twitter essentially exploding, the Broncos lost to the Patriots 45-10 last week ending the Bronco's season.

Tim Tebow is a football player who happens to play quarterback. He doesn't belong under center; he belongs on the sideline with a clipboard in his hands. There is no questioning his passion for the game and his drive to win. It is obvious that his team plays at a different level when he is on the field. As a football fan, Tebow's games are almost difficult to watch. His pocket presence is sketchy at best and he cannot make the easy throws. He looks like an 8th grader playing football with his friends at recess.

Yes, his team went on a stretch where they went 7-1, but then they went on a three game losing streak before falling back into the playoffs. Most people forget why they went on that winning streak: defense and Matt Prater. I mean come on -- a 59-yarder to win it and Tebow gets the praise? Ok, maybe I am not being fair to Tebow. I will give him the Miami game and... sigh... the Pittsburgh game.

Tebow is more than likely in the film room right now working to be a better quarterback. But there is a ceiling for athletes.

You can only get so good at any given sport. Tebow might have already hit his ceiling as an NFL quarterback. Grab a clipboard Tebow, give Brady Quinn a chance.

Dordt football welcomes new head coach

Justin Pastoor
Staff Writer

After the 2011 season for Defender football, head coach John Heavner announced that he was resigning from his position after five years, all of them being the beginning of the program.

On January 3, his place was taken over by Coach Greg Youngblood. From New Mexico, Youngblood takes over this head position after holding the head coaching position at Waldorf College, and being an assistant coach at both Waldorf and Taylor University, where he coached with former defensive coordinator Bill Bauer.

"I was interested in this position because I liked the Christian environment that Dordt offered. I knew the school was a place where you could recruit high academic and high character players," said Youngblood. "I knew coach Bauer because I coached with him at Taylor University and I had met some of the other coaches and I felt real comfortable



Photo by Aanna Stadem

with the staff."

Off season workouts have begun for the team with lifting, agilities, and plyometrics four times a week in the afternoon, and meetings between coaches, players and the organization as a whole.

"There is a plan as far as how we want to do things but I am also evaluating the program to determine how best things fit here at Dordt. Every school is different and so I am using input from as-

sistants and others before we decide what things work best here," said Youngblood.

His reception from the players has been very good.

"I like what Coach Youngblood has to bring to the table," said sophomore running back Lenard Manuel. "He has what it takes to take the team to the next level and has a different approach that makes us all better as an individual player of the game and as a team."

Coach Youngblood and his family have been welcomed tremendously in the community and looks forward to developing a great program while honoring God in every step of the way. He is joined by his wife Kelly, and his sons Zach and Cody, ages four and two.

Ask an Athlete

Shanna Braunschweig
Staff Writer

Meet Christopher Walter Sievers, a 6-7 forward for the men's basketball team from Huxley, Iowa. Although he is a brute force out on the basketball court and dominates inside the paint, he is merely a regular student. Now a junior here at Dordt, Chris has experienced countless embarrassing incidents and major switching just like the rest of us. Here's a closer look inside the life of one of our athletes.

In your opinion, what is the reason the men's basketball team is so successful this year?

"Team chemistry for sure -- we all get along really well. We're like brothers out there."

You have lost only two games this year, verses Midland and Briar Cliff, what happened in those games?

"We didn't come out ready to play. We definitely thought we were probably better than we were and didn't have our minds right to compete at our level."

How do you like our cheering section? Do you ever think they are a little harsh on the opponent?

"I like it. We go to a lot of other places -- like Doane is really bad and sometimes Dakota Wesleyan is even meaner, and we haven't had anything like that until this year. The student section is awesome this year. My roommate is Dustin Brisel



and he has a lot of energy out there."

What is your favorite commons meal?

"Their breakfast. I actually miss having the common's breakfast-- the hash browns are the best. Cooking for yourself stinks. Everyone thinks it's awesome, but you really don't eat much better. You eat a lot of Macaroni and Ramen Noodles and chicken."

Who is your dream girl?

"Megan Huizenga."

Do you know what is inside Cliff's backpack?

(Laughter). "Cliff's backpack is a mystery to everyone! No one knows what is in that backpack. Us being his roommates, we don't even know. I would say money and maybe a book or a Sports Illustrated Magazine. We have always been really tempted to look but he keeps it right by him when he sleeps at night."

Tell us something interesting that readers might not know about you.

"People might not know that the next youngest sib-

ling in my family is 32 and I am 21. There is an 11-year gap between my brother and I. I was an accident."

Why did you come to Dordt?

"I came to Dordt because it's a smaller school, basketball, and they had an Ag program. I came for Agriculture, but I switched my major to Elementary Education. My mom and sister are both teachers so I'm kind of following them."

What is the most embarrassing moment you have experienced here at Dordt College?

"Oh, geez. There has been a ton! I don't know where to start. Probably any time I fall walking to class on the ice -- that is really embarrassing. And everyone laughs."

How old do you want to live to be?

"Well, I don't want to see all my friends die off before me. My grandpa is 91 and he says it's a curse he has lived this long. I'd say probably 80."

What pumps you up for a game?

"Matt Vande Kamp and Dustin Douma and I have a thing where we wrestle each other before the game."

What would you say is your best feature?

"I'd have to say the beak. Or the big bottom lip, one of the two."

Why did you shave your head last year during the basketball season?

"Brett Cross was cutting my hair last year. He was shaving my head and trimming it up without the guard on it, and he accidentally cut into it. So we're like, what do we do now? I couldn't leave it, so we had to shave it and I looked just awful, like a naked mole rat. And it was right before the Northwestern game so it was the most embarrassing time possible to have that done."

Do you ever take naps?

"Oh, yah, for sure. Probably every other day for about 45 minutes, but no longer or else I get too tired. I would take a three hour nap everyday, but if I did that I would never wake up for practice."

Are you concerned with "ring by spring" or doesn't that phase you?

"Not a chance. It seems like these past two weeks have been hectic with engagements. No pressure at all. I'm going to wait till I'm done with school. I am not going to fall into that Dordt way."

If you could live in any time period, what would it be?

"I would live in the medieval time period, but only if I could be a knight. That or anywhere in the future where we have flying cars, like the Jetsons."

Arts and Entertainment

Prairie Grass Film Challenge



Rachel Mulder
Staff Writer

The Prairie Grass Film Challenge (PGFC) is an annual 48 hour film-making competition hosted by Dordt in which teams of high school students, college students, and older persons submit short films.

The teams had from 4 p.m. on January 12 until 4 p.m. on January 14 to complete and submit their films online. The films must be a minimum of five minutes and a maximum length of eight minutes.

"I love the chance to compete head to head with other fellow class-men at Dordt, and then getting to see them all across Sioux Center filming different scenes for their movie," said Jeff Cooke, sophomore digital media major.

Cooke participated in PGFC last year and decided that he

enjoys editing, even though pre-production is fun too.

"Pre-production is fun too. Pre-production is one of the most fun steps because you throw ideas around and get everybody jumping around the room in excitement because they have some crazy idea to incorporate into the film. Generally the ideas are pretty out-of-this-world, but that's what makes the film so good because there is always someone who can build off of it," Cooke said.

Jason Stuhrenburg, junior digital media major at Dordt, participated in PGFC this year for the first time.

"I think what I enjoy most is seeing the idea come to completion, looking back, realizing how little sleep and functioning you actually had... It forces you to think on your feet, make decisions, and move on with your life," Stuhrenburg said.

Teams who participated in

PGFC could not begin filming until they received an email with four important items all necessary in the creation of their films. This year the four items were genre, prop, line of dialogue, and character.

"It's hard working on a team -- especially at that pace. There's got to be room for give and take," Stuhrenburg said.

Now that production is over, the teams are looking forward to the award ceremony that is being held in the B.J. Haan on February 17.

Pep Band Rocks the Rounded Roof

Jordan Harmelink
Staff Writer

The De Witt Gymnasium has been the place to be in Northwest Iowa during this basketball season. With the historic 18-2 start for the men's team, students, faculty, and surrounding area supporters are flocking to the De Witt Gym to catch a game.

Along with watching great basketball, fans in the stands have had the opportunity to listen to some of the classic tunes of the Dordt College's Pep Band that was rejuvenated last semester.

Anna Kalfs, a senior secondary instrumental music education major with a minor in English from Okabena MN, was chosen as the director of the band by the music department.

"I received an email in the summer from the music department telling me that I was nominated to become the director of the pep band and later, Mr. Miedema asked me if I would be willing to accept," Kalfs said.

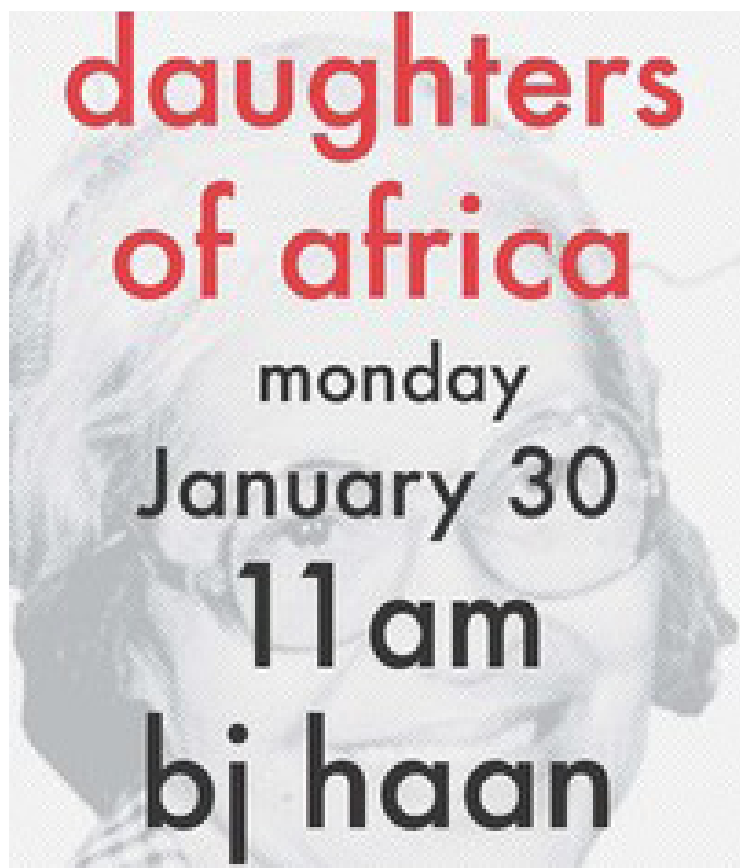
Recruitment and awareness of the pep band was Kalf's next step.

"I specifically targeted campus community and concert band members, along with some friends that were not in band, but knew how to play an instrument," Kalf said.



Photo by Aanna Stadem

Mixed Blood Theater to perform *Daughters of Africa*



Aanna Stadem
Staff Writer

Mixed Blood Theatre, based in Minneapolis, MN, will visit Dordt College on January 30th, during the community block (11am-12pm). T

The group will perform Syl Jone's *Daughters of Africa* in the

B.J. Haan. The performance will include various, engaging depictions of influential women such as Harriet Tubman, Rosa Parks, and Oprah Winfrey, and will feature varieties of music from Billie Holiday to Aretha Franklin.

Mixed Blood defines the mission of the company as "A professional, multi-racial theatre

promoting cultural pluralism and individual equality through artistic excellence." Since 1976, Mixed Blood Theatre has provided compelling, skillful entertainment as well as promoted societal change. An average of 75,000 people per year watch their productions.

Mixed Blood Theatre has become a renowned for its convicting productions—its challenges and its celebrations alike—pro-

ductions that show no signs of slowing.

April Hubbard, a Professor of Theatre Arts, says, "Dordt has been bringing in performances by the Mixed Blood Theatre for many years."

In 2009, *Theory of Mind* was performed in the B.J. Haan. It was based on the effects of autism and provoked a lot of discussion around campus.

"Their productions celebrate

diversity and expose the Dordt college campus to theatre they are unlikely to see performed in this area," said Hubbard.

Hubbard was impressed with Mixed Blood Theatre's previous shows and says she's "certain the upcoming performance of *Daughters of Africa* will also be well worth attending."

The logo for Rena's Salon & Spa is displayed. The name "Rena's" is written in a large, elegant, black cursive script. Below it, the words "SALON & SPA" are written in a smaller, black, all-caps sans-serif font. To the right of the text is a graphic of a bright yellow sun with wavy rays, set against a background of small black dots.

Amusements

What if...

A humorous look at the many “what ifs” throughout history



By Alex Updike

So you are back on campus, ready to hit the books, continue your education, and strive for academic perfection, right? Ya, me neither, but it’s what we choose to do. But what if you had declined to come back? What if you had told Dordt what they could do with that \$15,000 dollars its costing you to have your face fall off due to the cold on your way to class? What if you had just told yourself, “You know what, self? I don’t need ‘higher education’ and I’m not going to spend exorbitant amounts of money to get it!” Well, the fact that your reading this means you obviously didn’t, so there’s really no need to dwell on it.

But you know what we should dwell on? Acronyms! That’s right, acronyms! I’m talking to you, SOPA. We all know about SOPA because every high school and college student that had to write a research paper was pulling their hair out for 24 hours waiting for Wikipedia to stop “making their point.” SOPA, or the Stop Online Piracy Act, is an act to stop online piracy (what can I say, the acronym is pretty self-explanatory), and the Senate’s version of the bill is planned to be brought up for vote soon. The legislation is highly controversial, but I think that if we are willing to focus on what the real consequences of its passing would be, the choice will be simple. So, what if SOPA passes and becomes law?

First, the amount of music downloaded for personal use would drop at least 99%. I mean, it already costs about \$12-\$15 dollars to buy a CD at a store, and iTunes is way too mainstream for the growing hipster population. That means, without free

downloads, the only choice left is to simply listen to what is already on our iPods and never buy music again . . . unless you’re a corporate sellout! Without people listening to new music, general satisfaction and enjoyment in life drops and the world becomes a mess of depressed, xanax-zombies that slowly take over the world, one slow, mutilated step at a time. And nobody wants that.

Secondly, the good folks at Wikipedia tell me that the enactment of SOPA could “greatly affect” YouTube . . . YouTube!!!! How are my roommates and I supposed to bond over a piece of corn named Akbar if there’s no YouTube? It’s a well-known fact that the number one source of male-roommate bonding takes place over YouTube videos. Without YouTube, male roommates never get along. Because of this, male college students everywhere become more and more disheartened with their rooming situations, causing them to have a generally more pessimistic view of life. It’s also a well-known fact that women don’t like pessimistic guys. This being the case, relationships drop off completely, marriages never happen, and the earth’s population literally dies out.

So there you have it. If SOPA passes into law, the human race ends. It sounds simple enough to me; I mean, I don’t even understand what the problem is. When has a non-Somalian pirate ever not been awesome? And I don’t think Somalia even has the internet, so what’s the big deal? But I digress. I don’t have a vote, so maybe my flawless logic doesn’t mean anything after all. But if you know someone with some pull in Congress, send this on to them, because I don’t think that any of us can afford not to watch the E*Trade baby whenever we want to.

Feature Photo



“None of our dreams of a white Christmas in the Midwest came true. However, the brown didn’t stop Aanna Stadem from going out and capturing some of the season through her lens.”

What’s the RUSH?



Photo by Aanna Stadem

Kelly Zatlin Editor

Seven Dordt students will be crossing enemy lines to perform in Northwestern College’s annual dance showcase, “RUSH,” taking place Feb. 2-4.

The student-choreographed showcase features ten groups performing different genres of dance, such as hip hop, contemporary, and more.

The draw to being a part of RUSH is that students with no experience, as well as students who have been dancing their whole lives, are up on stage, dancing side-by-side. Everyone who auditioned got a part in the show.

Dordt student Miguel Lantan, who has never performed a choreographed dance, is excited to be participating in RUSH for the first time.

“I’m looking forward to performing for an audience because I’ve never done that before,” said Lantan. “It will be a new experience. It’s also nice to be able to come together with Northwestern and forget rivalry issues.”

Lantan’s dance group will be performing four hop-hop routines while Dordt student Natalie Vreeken’s group will dance to a martial arts theme.

Though the time commitment of traveling back and forth to Northwestern for rehearsal almost every night is more than the students bargained for, they are thoroughly enjoying the experience and can’t wait for opening night.

“Even though it takes a lot of time, it’s been a ton of fun learning the dance, getting to know ‘Northwesterners (who really aren’t that bad after all), and looking forward to the performances,” said Dordt student Vreeken. “I’ll be glad to have my nights back when it’s over, but I’ll definitely miss

RUSH and dancing with my new friends.”

The RUSH performances will take place on Feb. 2-4, with one show at 7 p.m. on Thursday, two shows on Friday at 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. , and three shows on Saturday at 4 p.m. , 7 p.m. , and 1 p.m. Tickets can be purchased for one dollar online at Northwestern’s box office.



\$6.00 College Buffet

(with college I.D.)

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